



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
OFFICE OF THE COUNTY COUNSEL

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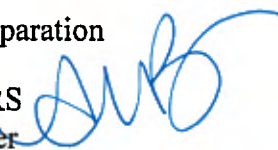
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October 29, 2020

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TO: CELIA ZAVALA
Executive Officer
Board of Supervisors

Attention: Agenda Preparation

FROM: ADRIENNE M. BYERS 
Litigation Cost Manager
Executive Office

RE: **Item for the Board of Supervisors' Agenda**
County Claims Board Recommendation
Cassandra Parks v. County of Los Angeles, et al.
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. BC 651145

Attached is the Agenda entry for the Los Angeles County Claims Board's recommendation regarding the above-referenced matter. Also attached is the Case Summary and the Summary Corrective Action Plan to be made available to the public.

It is requested that this recommendation, the Case Summary, and the Summary Corrective Action Plan be placed on the Board of Supervisors' agenda.

AMB:vc

Attachments

Board Agenda

MISCELLANEOUS COMMUNICATIONS

Los Angeles County Claims Board's recommendation: Authorize settlement of the matter entitled Cassandra Parks v. County of Los Angeles, et al., Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. BC 651145 in the amount of \$6,000,000 and instruct the Auditor-Controller to draw a warrant to implement this settlement from the Department of Public Works' budget.

This dangerous condition of public property lawsuit against the Department of Public Works arises from a fatal automobile accident in the unincorporated area of the County near Santa Clarita.

CASE SUMMARY

INFORMATION ON PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF LITIGATION

CASE NAME	Cassandra Parks v. County of Los Angeles, et al.
CASE NUMBER	BC651145
COURT	Los Angeles Superior Court
DATE FILED	February 2, 2017
COUNTY DEPARTMENT	Public Works
PROPOSED SETTLEMENT AMOUNT	\$ 6,000,000
ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF	Greg Bentley, Esq. Bentley More LLP
COUNTY COUNSEL ATTORNEY	Michael J. Gordon Deputy County Counsel
NATURE OF CASE	<p>On January 4, 2016, Plaintiff's decedent, 19-year-old Elena Kramer, sustained fatal injuries as a result of a single vehicle automobile collision on Bouquet Canyon Road in an unincorporated area of the County, near Santa Clarita. Plaintiff claims that dangerous conditions on Bouquet Canyon Road, which is controlled and maintained by the County, caused the accident, and seek damages for the death of Elena Kramer.</p> <p>Due to the risks and uncertainties of litigation, a full and final settlement of the case in the amount of \$6,000,000 is recommended.</p>
PAID ATTORNEY FEES, TO DATE	\$ 309,021
PAID COSTS, TO DATE	\$ 29,750



Summary Corrective Action Plan

The intent of this form is to assist departments in writing a corrective action plan summary for attachment to the settlement documents developed for the Board of Supervisors and/or the County of Los Angeles Claims Board. The summary should be a specific overview of the claims/lawsuits' identified root causes and corrective actions (status, time frame, and responsible party). This summary does not replace the Corrective Action Plan form. If there is a question related to confidentiality, please consult County Counsel.

Date of Incident/event:	January 4, 2016
Briefly provide a description of the incident/event:	On January 4, 2016, 19-year-old Elena Kramer, was driving southbound on Bouquet Canyon Road when she lost control of her vehicle while negotiating a curve, 2.3 miles south of Spunky Canyon Road (205 feet south of mile marker 8.84), crossed over the roadway centerline into the opposing lane of traffic and over a dirt shoulder and collided into a County-maintained tree located on the opposite side of the roadway. As a result, Ms. Kramer sustained fatal injuries.

1. Briefly describe the root cause(s) of the claim/lawsuit:

The collision occurred due to Elena Kramer's negligence in the operation of her vehicle by driving without due care and at an unsafe speed, crossing over the roadway centerline and colliding into a tree.

According to the Traffic Collision Report, Elena Kramer caused the collision by driving her vehicle in violation of VC 22350; which states: "No person shall drive a vehicle upon a highway at a speed greater than is reasonable or prudent having due regard for weather, visibility, the traffic on, and the surface and width of, the highway, and in no event at a speed which endangers the safety of person or property."

2. Briefly describe recommended corrective actions:

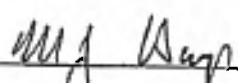
(Include each corrective action, due date, responsible party, and any disciplinary actions if appropriate)

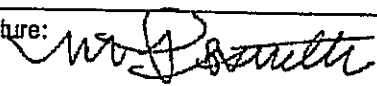
Guardrail was installed and the speed limit reduced for a portion of the roadway.

3. Are the corrective actions addressing department-wide system issues?

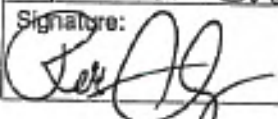
- ☐ Yes - The corrective actions address department-wide system issues.
☒ No - The corrective actions are only applicable to the affected parties.

County of Los Angeles
Summary Corrective Action Plan

Name: (Risk Management Coordinator) Michael J. Hays	
Signature: 	Date: 4/23/20

Name: (Department Head) Mark Pestrella	
Signature: 	Date: 5/4/20

Chief Executive Office Risk Management Inspector General USE ONLY
Are the corrective actions applicable to other departments within the County?
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes, the corrective actions potentially have County-wide applicability.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No, the corrective actions are applicable only to this department.

Name: (Risk Management Inspector General) Roberto Chavez	
Signature: 	Date: 5/13/20

MH:psr
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